

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 were pending in this application, of which claim 1 was the only independent claim.

Claims 1-5 are rejected.

Claims 6 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would otherwise be allowable.

Claims 8-20 have been added herein.

Claims 1-20 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment.

Claims 1, 16, and 19 will be the only pending independent claims.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, as Applicant believes claims 6 and 7 are dependent upon an allowable claim, as will be explained below, Applicant declines to amend claims 6 and 7 at this time.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,270,582 (hereinafter "Rivkin"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites, among other things, "a domed lid mounted on the transfer chamber and adapted to form an airtight seal with the transfer chamber" and employing a vacuum processing system with such a transfer chamber during manufacture of a flat-panel display from a

glass substrate. Advantages of the domed lid in the present invention are discussed at least at Page 2, lines 20-29 of Applicant's Specification.

In the current Office Action, the Examiner does not address the domed lid feature of the present invention. Further, as Applicant reads Rivkin, reference is not made to any form the transfer chamber may take, nor any shape its lid may have. Rivkin, in FIG. 3 and at Col. 6, lines 1-36, discloses a top plate 138 for the load lock chamber, not the transfer chamber. Even if the top plate were applied to the construction of the transfer chamber, Rivkin fails to teach or show "a domed lid" as recited in Applicant's independent claim 1. Further, Rivkin does not appear to disclose employing a vacuum processing system with such a transfer chamber during manufacture of a flat-panel display from a glass substrate. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claims 2-7 are dependent on independent claim 1 and are submitted as patentable on the same basis as claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 2-5 is respectfully requested.

III. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 8-20 have been added. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Claims 8-15 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1. Applicant believes independent claim 1 is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Thus, Applicant asserts that dependent claims 8-15 are patentable as they depend from patentable claim 1.

New claim 16 relates to a method for forming a domed lid for a transfer chamber and is described in Applicant's Specification at least at Page 10, line 18 to Page 12, line 9. This method is not taught or suggested by the reference. New dependent claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 16.

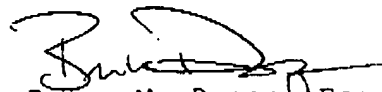
New claim 19 recites a method for use related to a transfer chamber "including at least one of windows, diagnostic devices, processing devices, and manufacturing devices, symmetrically disposed and evenly distributed in the domed lid." This feature, depicted in Fig. 8 and described in the associated text of Applicant's Specification, is not taught or suggested by the reference. New claim 20 depends from claim 19 and thus, Applicant asserts, is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 19.

IV. Conclusion

The Applicant believes all the claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same.

A separate Request for a One-Month Extension of Time is enclosed herewith, with authorization to charge the requisite extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. Applicant does not believe any other fees are due regarding this amendment. If any other fees are required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696. The Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone Applicant's attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



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